

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium belonging to a genus *Lactobacillus* capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing an intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is capable of growing in presence of up to about 0.4% bile salts, and wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is *Lactobacillus paracasei* CNCM I-2116.

Claims 2-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for preparing ~~an ingestable support material~~ comprising the step of ~~using~~adding to a food material a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to a genus *Lactobacillus* capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing an intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses, wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is *Lactobacillus paracasei* CNCM I-2116.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is contained in the ~~ingestable support material~~food composition in an amount from about 10^5 cfu / g to about 10^{12} cfu / g support material.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6 wherein the ~~ingestable support material~~food composition is a food ~~composition~~material selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, and infant formulae.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of ~~a disorder associated with~~ diarrhoea comprising the step of administering to a patient suffering a disorder associated with diarrhoea a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to a genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing an intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses, wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to a genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing an intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses, wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116, and wherein said composition contains a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The composition according to claim 10, which is selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formulae, tablets, liquid bacterial suspensions, dried oral supplement, liquid oral supplement, dry tube feeding, and liquid tube feeding, a pharmaceutical composition, and a food composition.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to claim 10 wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is capable ~~to grow in~~ of growing in the presence of up to 0.4% bile salts.

Claims 13-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 9 wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain ~~comprises an ingestable support material~~ is in a composition selected from the group consisting of a food composition and a pharmaceutical composition when administered.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method according to claim 916 wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is contained in the ~~support material~~composition in an amount from about 10^5 cfu / g to about 10^{12} cfu / g support material.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for preventing ~~a disorder associated with~~ diarrhoea comprising the steps of administering to a human or animal susceptible to having diarrhea a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to a genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing an intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses to a patient at risk of diarrhoea, wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to claim 18 wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is part of a composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, and infant formula.

Claims 20-23 (canceled)